

(1) Number of Pages 4
(2) Date of repair 28.6.67
(3) Initials of the Referencer W. I. 68

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	25	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	2.9.1874	196.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following letters:—

No. 689. From G. S. SAGE, Esq., District Engineer, South Arcot, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cuddalore, 23rd June 1874, No. 68.

With reference to G. O., No. 1,570, of 13th instant, I have the honor to forward a copy of the further report therein awaited which was sent to Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

1 Copy of Report.

From G. S. SAGE, Esq., District Engineer, South Arcot, to Lieutenant-Colonel J MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp Goverpet, 11th June 1874, No. ^F 18.

I HAVE the honor to report that the Ponnear river came down on 6th May in very heavy fresh; no person recollects its having come down so heavily before, and the result has been very heavy damages to irrigation works and roads.

2. Regarding the damage to irrigation works, which is the subject of this report and which should have been sent in long ago, but having only just joined the district I thought it necessary to see the more important works before reporting.

3. Commencing with the Ponnear river.

The Ponnear anicut near Trikalore is all safe as far as can be seen, but the apron is still under water and cannot be examined properly; on north bank the Pombay channel which took off close to the anicut wing wall, the head sluice to this channel has been completely destroyed and channel washed away for a distance of about three quarters of a mile; there was an embankment from the anicut wing to this sluice and thence to the head sluice of Aramullee channel; the river appears to have topped this embankment and then cut it away towards sluice, which fell forward and acted as a protection to the anicut wing or it would have gone. Surveys and levels are being made, also estimate for repairs, and materials are being collected for the purpose; at present there is too much water in river to do any work, but in course of a week I hope the repairs will be in full swing. I may mention here that, at anicut, river was never known to have risen more than 3 feet, on this occasion it rose to 5.77 above crest or nearly double, but it rose higher at the Marradur channel head sluice, which is the southernmost channel, near which the water was held up by the bay formed between anicut and sluice, at this sluice it rose to 7.36 above crest and passed over part of the road to anicut to a depth of 11½ inches, and but for the exertions of the Superintendent and Kotens we should have had damage here also; the bay on this side is smaller than the bay on north side, so water must have gone over embankment at least 1½ to 1½ feet in depth.

4. About four miles below the Ponnear Anicut an embankment, known as Coryaur embankment, placed across the Coryaur where it bifurcates from Ponnear, has been completely destroyed, and the south bank of river very much eroded, so much that where there were fields and cultivation there is now nothing but sand, the surface having been cut away. The causes of the Coryaur embankment being destroyed were two:—First, that the whole force of the heavy flood was directed on to the embankment by a reef of rocks (which you noticed when at the spot), which I have ordered to be removed. Second, there is no doubt from the marks of debris brought down by river that the embankment was overtopped by flood; the Mullataur channel, which passes through this portion has been completely obliterated, not a vestige of channel or spoil banks remains, through this embankment breaching the Ponnear water founded its way down the Mullataur into the Guddelum river, where much damage has been done, and will be noted further on. I may mention but for this relief to the flood water of Ponnear the large bridge across that river near Munjacoopum must have been carried away, as it rose to about 2½ feet below intrados of arches; as far as it can be examined no damage appears to have been done, when fresh subsides it will be carefully examined and, if necessary, report sent in.

5. On both banks of Ponnear river the every one has been more or less damaged and supply-channel, is entirely obliterated and

6. The new Oopalavady channel near M. in several places, and channel silted up for a yard, the arch of an aqueduct which was or fallen, at the head slice of this channel the

7. With reference to above the channel quickly as possible to prevent detriment to the cultivation.

8. On the Gullelum river, the repairs (which you saw) going on to Trivady anicut have been destroyed, but an embankment has been put up and irrigation is not stopped, the repairs are again in hand; water rose to level of top of wing walls of anicut, another 6 inches must have caused serious damage to, if not the destruction of, the anicut.

9. The Vanamalai anicut.—The rough stone apron has been a good deal destroyed, I have ordered to be repaired at once, the water rose to within 2 inches of top of wing walls.

10. The Triveudipoorum anicut is all right except a little repairs required to apron.

11. The river channels on this river, I am glad to say, are all safe.

12. I have directed bench marks of this fresh to be fixed wherever it was seen or can be traced for record.

13. I would here request if possible that an additional Overseer, a good man, used to work and knowing Tamil, be sent for employment in No. 1 Range on these repairs, as the Taluk Overseers have now with their ordinary work more than they can do.

14. The whole of the above damages are in No. 1 Range, which is fortunate in having Mr. Wiffen as Range Officer; in No. 2 a good many tanks have breached, but I have not heard of any damage in No. 3 Range.

No. 690. From G. S. SAGE, Esq., District Engineer, South Arcot, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cuddalore 27th July 1874, No. 88.

With reference to G. O., No. 200, of 23rd July 1874, forwarding G. O., No. 847, of 8th July 1874, on subject of damages to irrigation works reported by the Collector of South Arcot, I have the honor to point out a mistake in Mr. Garstin's letter, viz, that "the heads of the group of southern channels were saved from complete destruction by the activity of the Koten in charge;" this is incorrect, vide latter part of paragraph 3 of my report sent you with my No. 63, of 23rd June 1874. My object in writing is to point out that the Superintendent's pay has this official year been increased from 15 to 25 Rupees a month, and I do not think the reward sanctioned for him is necessary. I would, however, suggest that each of the six Kotens employed under him might receive one month's pay as an encouragement.

No. 691. ORDER THEREON, 28th August 1874, No. 2,438.

IRRIGATION, No. 62.

Establishment.

PARAGRAPH 1 of the order in the Revenue Department of the 8th July 1874, No. 847, was passed under the impression that the Koten referred to was a Revenue subordinate, whereas the person who appears to be intended is the Pooniar Anicut Superintendent, who is a

member of the Conservancy Establishment of the Public Works Department. Such being the case, and by his exemption from the usual test on account of his good conduct on the occurrence of these floods, the pay of the Superintendent having been raised from 15 to 25 Rupees a month, a gratuity appears to be unnecessary.

2. The grant of a month's pay to each of the lascars employed under the Superintendent, whom the District Engineer may consider deserving of this reward, is sanctioned, and will be met from savings under Establishment.

(True Extract.)

W. W. Walker

Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,

Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.

.. District Engineer, South Arcot.

.. Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.

.. Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

20 Spare Copies

N. 298
Revenue Department
Govt. of 1874 Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Dated 2nd Sept 1874
Encl.

G. O., 28th August 1874, No. 2438.

AUGUST.
Nos. 689-691

2/9

2/9
1874
25
Reward.—The grant of a month's pay to each of the lascars employed under the Portneer Assistant Superintendent, whom the District Engineer highly considered deserving of this reward for their activity on the occasion of the late floods in the South Arcot District, employed, and a gratuity to the Superintendent considered unnecessary.

Communicated to the
Board of Revenue with reference
to G.O. 8 July 1874 at 847.
Final. 2/9/74 GLL